



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 June 2025

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-ninth session

16 June–11 July 2025

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

**Joint written statement* submitted by International
Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial
Discrimination, Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and
Immigration, International-Lawyers.Org, Meezaan Center
for Human Rights, non-governmental organizations in
special consultative status, International Educational
Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental
organizations on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



End the Impunity of Israel's Genocide in Palestine

As the Human Rights Council convenes for its 59th regular session, impunity and lack of accountability remain defining factors in Israel's occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Not only Israel continues to defy international law without facing repercussions, but also the international community is not doing enough to uphold the rulings by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) concerning Israel's violations.

On the one hand, on 21 November 2024, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defense Mr. Yoav Gallant. The warrants were issued for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 to at least 20 May 2024. The representatives of Israel were accused of the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other cruel and inhumane acts.

On the other hand, the ICJ dealt with Israeli crimes in both the case on the Genocide Convention brought forth by South Africa on December 2023 and the advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory in July 2024. The Court found an urgent and tangible possibility that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people and that Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful.

Despite these rulings and the ongoing genocide unfolding in Gaza and the West Bank, Israel's policies of annexation and eradication of the Palestinians continue unhindered. As Mr. Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA), reminded the UN Security Council on 13 May 2025: "this degradation of international law is undermining decades of progress on rules to protect civilians from inhumanity and the violent and lawless among us who act with impunity."

Obligations of Israel

Israel has been found in violation of international law in the legal proceedings by the ICC and the ICJ following the invasion of Gaza in October 2023. Due to this, Israel and its leaders have been subjected to several obligations that the state has failed to uphold.

In the case before the ICJ, *South Africa vs. Israel*, the Court mandated on 26 January 2024 that Israel shall prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of the Genocide Convention and that it shall take immediate measures to prevent and punish incitement to commit genocide. Moreover, the court ordered Israel to enable the provision of urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

Israel's disregard for such provisions was underscored by the court's renewal and expansion of their orders on 5 April 2024 and 24 May 2024.

On 19 July 2024, the ICJ concluded in its advisory opinion that Israel is under an obligation to:

- bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible;
- cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
- make reparation for the damage caused to all the natural or legal persons concerned in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Regrettably, these orders still remain largely disregarded by Israel. Ever since their issuance of the obligations for Israel in January 2024, the situation on the ground has continued to deteriorate.

Israel has not taken any step to put an end to its illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories. Instead, it has been expanding its illegal settlements in the West Bank, as a March 2025 report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, confirmed.

Moreover, the latest plans to expand Israeli military presence in Gaza have caused widespread international condemnation, including by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, who expressed his alarm on 5 May 2025 about Israeli plans to expand ground operations and prolong its military presence in Gaza under operation Gideon's chariots.

At the same time, Israel's expanded military operations in Gaza and in the West Bank continue to inflict on the Palestinian people life conditions calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part. According to a statement released on 7 May 2025 by UN experts, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ms. Albanese, "no one is spared - not the children, persons with disabilities, nursing mothers, journalists, health professionals, aid workers, or hostages." They also added that the situation in Gaza represents one of the "most ostentatious and merciless manifestations of the desecration of human life and dignity".

The decision to prevent UNRWA's operations in Israel and Palestine, formalized in the two laws passed by the Knesset on 28 October 2024, has also critically endangered the lives of Palestinians, blocking the provision of life-saving supplies of humanitarian aid such as food, water, fuel, medical equipment and medicines for several months. As the Palestinian NGO Addameer noted, such actions constitute a breach of the provisional measures taken by the ICJ. Although Israel has bent to international pressure and resumed the entrance of approximately one hundred trucks of aid deliveries on 20 May 2025, there are still members of the cabinet - most notably National Security Minister Ben Gvir who defined such humanitarian measures as a "serious and grave mistake".

Obligations of the International Community

The rulings of the ICC and the ICJ have also produced a set of obligations that the international community should respect.

According to Art. 89 of the Rome Statute, states shall cooperate with the ICC in the arrest and surrender of a wanted individual and shall comply with any such request by the court. Nevertheless, PM Netanyahu was welcomed on official visits by the PM Orban of the Republic of Hungary, a state party to the Rome Statute. He was also invited by the United States of America under the administration of President Trump, in open defiance to the court. As Palestinian NGO Al-Haq commented, "the failure of States Parties to uphold their legal obligations in executing arrest warrants against individuals accused of grave crimes undermines the very foundation of the entire international justice system."

The ICJ has also clearly identified the main obligations for third states that arise from its rulings. Following the 19 July 2024 advisory opinion, The Court concluded that all States were under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation. As the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory remarked in their position paper of 2024, States need to ensure that their military assistance, economic and financial relations, diplomatic activities and cultural support vis-à-vis Israel do not contribute to the continuation of Israel's unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Moreover, considering the possible violations of the jus cogens norm prohibiting genocide found by the Court in its 26 January 2024 ruling on South Africa vs. Israel, third states face erga omnes obligations that include halting the provision of arms and financial support to Israel. In this regard, we denounce the decision of the United States of America to deliver billions in funds worth of military assistance to Israel, as stated by the current Secretary of State on 1 March 2025. Other major suppliers of arms to Israel, including Germany and the Italy, did not take a decisive stance to stop all military aid to the occupying power, resulting in the shipment of weapons to Israel from contracts that had been signed prior to 7 October 2023.

Recommendations

Considering the atrocities that are continuously committed by Israel and the impunity it nonetheless enjoys, we recommend the following measures:

To the occupying power, Israel:

- The state and its leaders face trial for the grave violations committed and pay reparation to the State of Palestine;
- Respect the calls for an immediate ceasefire and provide relief to the population in need;
- Halt any action in violation of Israel's obligations as contained in the 1948 Genocide Convention;
- Occupying forces retreat from occupied land in both Gaza and the West Bank;
- The government recognizes the Palestinian inalienable right to self-determination and works towards the creation of a viable two-state solution.

To the UN and the International Community:

- The increase of diplomatic and economic pressure to put an end to hostilities;
- The COI must be allowed to freely investigate Israel's violation of international humanitarian and human rights law as established by its mandate;
- States that continue to provide arms or dual-use goods to Israel must stop doing so with immediate effect and impose an arms embargo;
- Sanctions and other targeted measures should be authorized by the UN Security Council and by other international organizations, including the European Union;
- State parties to the Rome Statute have to collaborate with the ICC in its investigations and for the detention of convicted Israeli leaders;
- States should contribute to the ongoing ICJ investigations and provide evidence of Israel's wrongful conduct.

Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ), Arab Lawyers Association-UK, Human Rights Defenders (HRD), Brussels Tribunal, Iraqi Committee for Human Rights (ICHR), Association of Humanitarian Lawyers (AHL), Association of Human Rights Defenders in Iraq (AHRD), Organization for Justice & Democracy in Iraq (OJDI), NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.